(b) IFCI has reported that its operations have recorded a growth rate in sanctions and disbursements during the year 1994-95 of the order of 54.3% and 48.7% respectively on annualised basis over the sanctions and disbursements made during 1993-94 (July-March).

Creation of National Transmission Network for Power

*129. SHRI SANJAY. DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power transmission network has not been developed equally as the power generation network/ infrastructure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plans to create a National Transmission Network to ensure dependable transmission, covering the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b) Appropriate associated transmission links are planned and executed for evacuation of power from the generating stations. Development of infrastructure for transmission of power is an ongoing process and there is always need for augmentation/strengthening of the transmision network.

(c) and (d) Acton has already been initiated for the formation of a National Power Grid involving inter-connection of regional grids to facilitate exchange of power across various regions in the country and to make optimum utilisation of the available generation resources. The details of the Schemes for integrating the Regional Grids into a National Grid are as follows:—

(i) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back transmission link at Vindhyachal connecting Northern and Western Region already exists (approximate cost Rs. 146.33 crores).

(ii) 1000 MW HVDC Back to Back station at Chandrapur connecting Southern and Western Regions is under execution and expected to be commissioned in 1997-98 (Approximate cost Rs. 900.28 crores).

(iii) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back link at Vishakhapatnam connecting Eastern and Southern Regions has also been approved for commissioning during 1998-99 (Approximate cost Rs. 659.98 crores).

(iv) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back Mau-Biharshariff project has also been planned to connect Eastern and Northern Regions for commissioning during 9th Plan (approximate cost Rs. 556.31 crores).

Other major links would be planned alongwith future generating projects.

Prices of Consumer Items

130. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) have the prices of consumer items come down after the presentation of the 1995-96 budget as stated by the Minister of Finance while presenting the budget;

(b) if so, the names of the items whose prices have come down and by how much/to what extent; and

(c) the reasons for the prices not coming down in respect of the remaining